

The following is claimed:

1. A printing system comprising:

at least one input source for storing a medium prior to printing;

at least two output destinations for holding or processing the medium after the printing;

a user interface to support a user's entry of a command comprising at least a media identifier and an output destination indicator, the command supporting selection of one of the output destinations for any sheet of a print job in said at least one input source prior to the printing; and

a central processing unit configured to determine a pattern of media feeds for each output set of a print job to achieve a desired appearance characteristic of sheets for the output set.

2. The printing system according to claim 1 wherein the command comprises an output- destination-control command including a media tag as the media identifier and an exit name as the destination identifier.

3. The printing system according to claim 2 wherein the output-destination-control command further comprises a defined number of pages associated with the media tag and the exit name.

4. The printing system according to claim 1 wherein the command comprises an alternate media command that requests the incorporation of an alternate media into a defined portion of the print job.

5. The printing system according to claim 1 wherein the command comprises a non-printed media command that represents a request for incorporation of a blank or non-printed media into a designated portion of the print job.

6. The printing system according to claim 1 wherein the media identifier includes at least one of a primary media identifier and an alternate media identifier for the print job.

7. The printing system according to claim 1 wherein the central processing unit supports association of the media identifier with a corresponding input source.

8. The printing system according to claim 1 wherein the command has a primary command format that includes the media identifier, a request identifier, and a page identifier, where the media identifier, the request identifier, and the page identifier are associated with each other for application to at least a portion of the print job.

9. The printing system according to claim 1 wherein the command has a secondary command format that includes the media identifier, the output destination indicator, a request indicator, and a page quantity, where the media identifier, the output

destination indicator, the request indicator, and the page quantity are associated with each other for application to at least a portion of the print job.

10. The printing system according to claim 1 wherein the command comprises a print job request to route some fraction of an ordered media for the print job from the at least one input source to one of the at least two output destinations.

11. The printing system according to claim 1 wherein the command comprises a request to purge an un-needed sheet to a specified one of the at least two output destinations of the print job.

12. The printing system according to claim 1 wherein the command comprises a request to route a first group of defined members of an ordered media to one output destination and a second group of ordered media to another output destination, where the first group and the second group belong to the same output set.

13. The printing system according to claim 1 wherein the command comprises an output-destination-control command that selectively incorporates a new printed media command into the output-destination-control command if respective values of symbols for corresponding pages of the output set meet a defined criteria.

14. The printing system according to claim 1 wherein the command comprises an output-destination-control command that selectively incorporates an alternate media

command into the output-destination-control command if respective values of symbols for corresponding pages of the output set meet a defined criteria.

15. A method of producing documents, the method comprising:

storing a medium in at least one input source prior to printing;

supporting a user's entry of a command comprising at least a media identifier and an output destination indicator to select an output destination, among two or more output destinations, for any sheet of a print job in said at least one input source prior to the printing; and

determining a pattern of media feeds for each output set of the print job to achieve a desired appearance characteristic for the output set or a desired assembly of the sheets of the output set.

16. The method according to claim 15 further comprising the step of:

creating media feed instructions based on the pattern of media feeds.

17. The method according to claim 15 further comprising entering an output-destination-control command including a media tag as the media identifier and an exit name as the destination identifier.

18. The method according to claim 15 further comprising entering an output-destination-control command including a media tag as the media identifier, an exit

name as the destination identifier and a defined number of pages associated with the media tag and the exit name.

19. The method according to claim 15 further comprising entering an alternate media command as the command to request the incorporation of an alternate media into a defined portion of the print job.

20. The method according to claim 15 further comprising entering a non-printed media command as the command to request the incorporation of a blank or non-printed media into a designated portion of the print job.

21. The method according to claim 15 further comprising associating a respective media identifier with a corresponding input source that stores a particular medium.

22. The method according to claim 15 wherein the command has a primary command format that includes the media identifier, a request identifier, and a page identifier, where the media identifier, the request identifier, and the page identifier are associated with each other for application to at least a portion of the print job.

23. The method according to claim 15 wherein the command has a secondary command format that includes the media identifier, the destination indicator, a request indicator, and a page quantity, where the media identifier, the destination indicator,

the request indicator, and the page quantity are associated with each other for application to at least a portion of print job.

24. The method according to claim 15 wherein the command comprises a print job request to route some fraction of an ordered media for the print job from the at least one input source to a selected output destination among the two or more output destinations.

25. The method according to claim 15 wherein the command comprises a request to purge an un-needed sheet to a specified one of the two or more output destinations of the print job.

26. The method according to claim 15 wherein the command comprises a request to route a first group of defined members of an ordered media to one output destination and a second group of ordered media to another output destination, where the first group and the second group belong to the same output set.

27. The method according to claim 15 wherein the command comprises an output-destination-control command that selectively incorporates a new printed media command into the output-destination-control command if respective values of symbols for corresponding pages of the output set meet a defined criteria.

28. The printing system according to claim 15 wherein the command comprises an output-destination-control command that selectively incorporates an alternate media command into the output-destination-control command if respective values of symbols for corresponding pages of the output set meet a defined criteria.

28. The printing system according to claim 15 wherein the command comprises an output-destination-control command that selectively incorporates an alternate media command into the output-destination-control command if respective values of symbols for corresponding pages of the output set meet a defined criteria.